



**HB11 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Tier 1 Renewable Source – Alterations
(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2022)**

**Testimony before
House Economic Matters Committee
March 04, 2022
Position: Favorable**

Mister Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, my name is Peter Alexander and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. IndivisibleHoCo is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in support of HB11. We appreciate Delegate Stewart's leadership in sponsoring this legislation.

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was created in 2004 to support the development of renewable energy use in Maryland, by requiring utilities to purchase Renewable Energy Credits from producers of renewable energy with money from our utility bills. Over time, the RPS has gotten dirtier and dirtier. Burning chicken litter and trash for energy are placed in the top-tier, most-subsidized "renewable energy" category. Burning wood products counts as renewable despite the significant greenhouse gas emissions and public health harm that such facilities produce. So does using food waste, manure, and other organic materials to produce methane, a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Burning all of these "renewable" energy sources causes air pollution that is affecting all of us, especially those in disadvantaged communities where our incinerators are located.

Our money, spent on these dirty energy sources means money not spent on real, emissions-free renewables. We pay more than \$100 million into the RPS program every year, and in 2019, \$32 million of that went to polluters. Further, these facilities pollute the communities they are in, emit greenhouse gasses, and do not create as many local jobs as truly renewable energy, an enormous lost opportunity for Maryland. In the face of the climate crisis mounting every day, this can't go on any longer.

HB11, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act fixes this dirty secret. It defines renewable energy as really renewable energy, and puts our dollars into it - not into polluters. Maryland must reclaim our Renewable Portfolio Standard and put our clean energy subsidies where they belong: truly renewable, emission-free energy.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

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